

Metropolitan State University

buzz

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS SPRING 2018 VOLUME 10, NO. 2

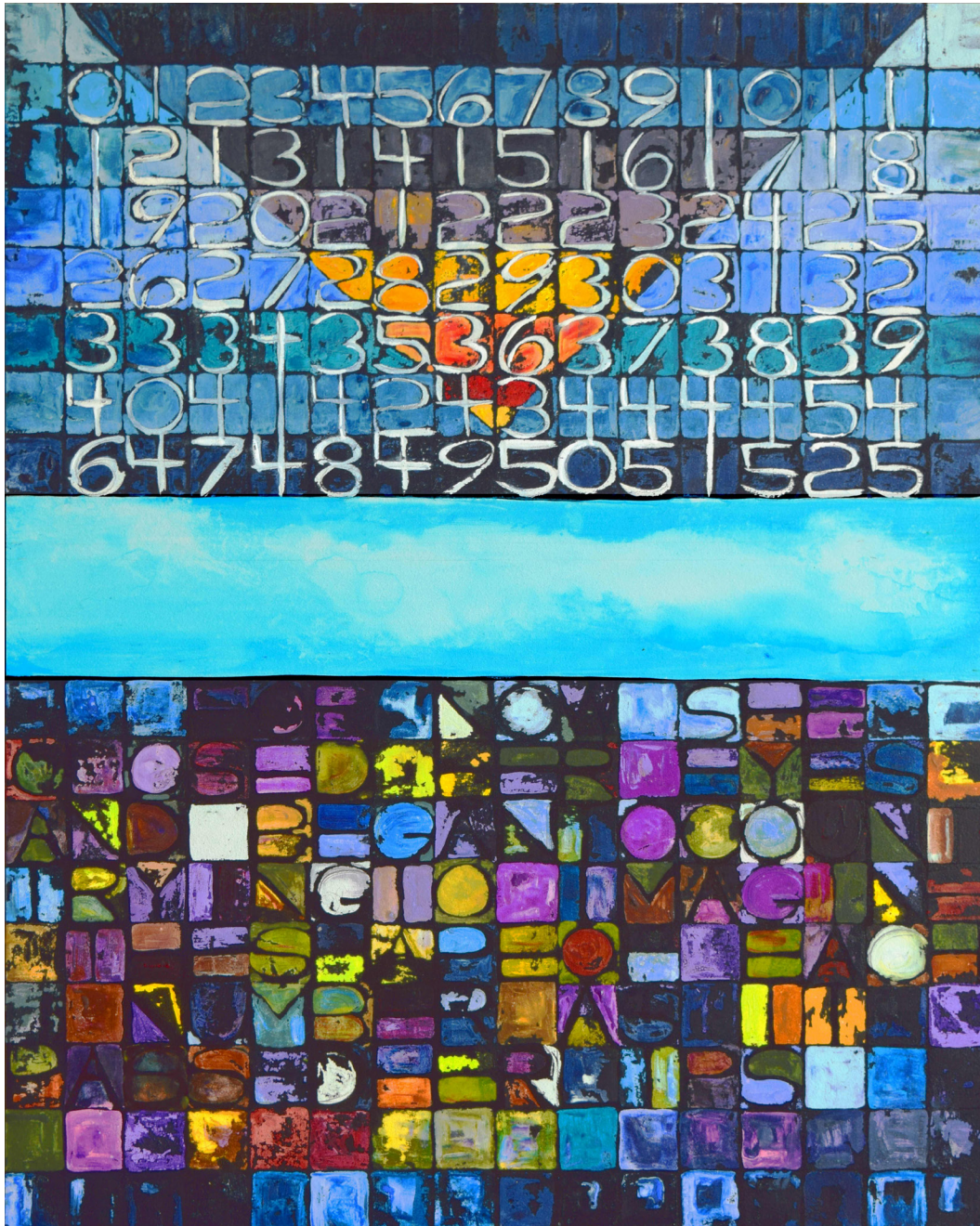


Andrea Jenkins ('99)

Lifelong Learner
and
Minneapolis City
Councilmember

Metropolitan
State University





For Now She Closed Her Eyes
 Susan Solomon ('08)
 gouache

Office Hours



Greetings! It is a pleasure to welcome you to this issue of *buzz*, with its focus on lifelong learning—a core value and a daily practice from Metropolitan State’s earliest years. As I work with my colleagues to lead the university through a disruptive environment to expand our outreach to adult and underserved learners, I am reminded that learning continuously is as imperative for university executives as for students and alumni!

This semester, I am grateful that I now have a permanent executive team in place. We have been working carefully to identify and attract highly-qualified leaders to fill positions that had been in “interim” status. Our work of building the best possible learning experiences for our students is benefiting from the expertise, stability, and cohesiveness that this team-building work has produced.

Speaking of hiring, I want to share the recent news that the Minnesota State Board of Trustees has just appointed a new chancellor for our statewide system. After a national search, the board offered our former interim president, Dr. Devinder Malhotra, a three-year appointment as chancellor, which he has accepted. The continuing transition will usher in an important new era for the work of public higher education across Minnesota. I look forward to working closely with Chancellor Malhotra as we pursue new solutions to the education and workforce issues facing our metropolitan region and the state.

One specific workforce shortage we are addressing is Minnesota’s significant and long-term lack of professionals trained for cybersecurity careers—a February industry analysis found a shortage of more than 5,400 workers in that field. We have launched an educational program in cybersecurity, and we are working to expand that platform to support the educational and training needs of state agencies, employers, and the National Guard.

Another initiative, supporting both lifelong and civically-engaged learning, is the GROW-IT Center, for which we have been planning for three years. Our funding is now in place, and final design work will be completed in time to allow construction to begin in June. Our goal is to have this refurbished 1990s greenhouse ready for occupancy at the start of the 2019 growing season. We are excited by the ways in which this asset will serve diverse community interests and partners in the years ahead, as we bring faculty expertise to bear on issues such as food security, urban agriculture, youth development, and many more, and as we learn from our neighbors in the process.

For our lifelong learners, an important inflection point in their learning journey is their graduation from the university. That memorable day is taking on a new look and feel this year, as Metropolitan State has made the transition to hosting two smaller ceremonies, on a Saturday, each fall and spring. Our first experience with this approach went well, and we continue to learn how to make graduation even more memorable for students and their families. As the nature and content of work in our global, networked society continue to change, the demand for high-quality learning, delivered appropriately for busy professionals and for previously underserved communities, will only increase. At Metropolitan State University, we welcome that challenge and as your academic home, we want to remind you that we remain open to your continued academic needs. You are welcome to join us anytime, to refresh your own knowledge and skills, to continue lifelong learning by starting something new or to share your experience and talent with the next generation of eager Metropolitan State learners.

Sincerely,

Virginia Arthur

Virginia “Ginny” Arthur, JD
President

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An equal opportunity educator

Cover photo by Bri Berglund

Alumni Association

Graduation is just the beginning of the story!

By Dr. Michael O'Connor ('92)

In April, I had the honor of addressing Metropolitan State's most recent graduating class. It was particularly meaningful to me as a 1992 graduate, an Alumni Board member, and a member of the community faculty. I hold a deep respect and appreciation for the hard work students put into earning their degree. Their grit and enthusiasm are inspiring. In my remarks, I invited them to stay connected to the university by sharing their time as a volunteer, by advocating for the university in their community, and by giving back to support future students. I am writing this letter to ask the same of you.

Serving on the Alumni Association Board of Directors has been an excellent opportunity for me to express my gratitude for the chance to earn my bachelor's degree. Since that time, I have gone on to earn advanced degrees and certifications from a number of other universities, but I volunteer for Metro State because I know how meaningful that first degree was for me and what it means to my fellow alumni.

Alumni who volunteer their time and talent make a difference for current and future students. Being a career connection, speaking to prospective students, or sharing your perspective on an alumni committee supports Metro State's mission. Even attending an alumni event helps build the network of Metropolitan State University advocates.

I am nearing the end of my term as a member of the Alumni Board, but it won't be the last time I choose to serve the university as a volunteer. Next fall, I will continue my service to the university as a member of the Metropolitan State University Foundation Board of Trustees. It is another way I can share my time and expertise with the university. I invite you to support the university through volunteerism, advocacy, and giving. Your efforts and generosity will have an impact on students and the future of the university.



Alumni Association Board Members

Sandra Best ('88)

Steve Campos ('17)

Allison Cole ('16)

Akmed Khalifa ('08, '10)

Linda McCann ('06, '15)

Isaac Muhammad ('12)

Michael O'Connor ('92)

Carmen Shields ('15)

Tené Wells ('92)

Irene Wright ('92)

Front Row: Tené Wells, Allison Cole. **Second Row:** Linda McCann, Jessie Watson, Sandy Best. **Third Row:** Isaac Muhammad, Michael O'Connor.

Growing a Healthy Community

By Kristine Hansen ('07)

“The university is committed to academic excellence and community partnerships through its curriculum, teaching, scholarship, and services designed to support an urban mission. And the vision for the university states: The faculty, staff, and students of Metropolitan State will reflect the area’s rich diversity and will demonstrate an unwavering commitment to civic engagement.”

Metropolitan State University Mission Statement

Community engagement takes on many forms. At the **“Love Grows Here Wellness Center”** located across the street from Metropolitan State University Saint Paul Campus, community engagement takes the shape of the healing hands of a nursing student. Every Wednesday night for the past 11 years, volunteers from First Lutheran Church provide community meals for neighbors in need and Metropolitan State University nursing students provide health care services supervised by Professors Joyce Bredesen, Ruth Staus, and Deb Matthias-Anderson.

The Wellness Center emerged from a collaboration between First Lutheran Church, Metropolitan State University/Nursing Programs, the Police Homeless Outreach Project (P-HOP), the Dayton’s Bluff Block Nurse Program, and other community partners. “Volunteers from the community come to help make and serve a meal, and our nursing students provide services. We offer foot care, blood pressure screenings, resource connecting, hand massage, advocacy; the list goes on,” Bredesen says.

Building trust with their clients is key. Students serve a two-week rotation under the supervision of faculty. The trust built between faculty, students, and clients makes a difference. “I can go up to the table of clients and say, ‘hey, this is one of my nursing students. Would you let them take your blood pressure? Would you like to come over and have a hand massage?’ They just brighten up,” Bredesen says.

For the students, the Wellness Center offers a transformative learning opportunity. Bredesen describes the student experience in this way, “because of the richness of our student population, many of our students can relate in various ways to this community. There are also many students who have never had an opportunity to sit down with someone who is homeless or who lives in extreme poverty and listen to their story. I always use foot care as an example. I tell my nursing students that foot care is my favorite thing I do as a nurse because when you are kneeling at someone’s feet, something magical happens; the clients open up and share their life stories. Our students have an opportunity to connect with clients differently within this setting.”

Shannon Marchiando, a student in the RN-BSN program, describes her experience in the program:

“My time spent at the Wellness Center showed me how this group of people, who were struggling to get by, were still members of a strong and loving community. So many people look at the homeless as outcasts, burdens, or dangerous people, but what I saw was a group of caring, loving souls who invest in each other. It was like any other community dinner; people were laughing, visiting, and catching up with one another. It showed me that no matter who my patient is, we all, at our core, need to feel accepted and cared about and that when we get that feeling we will return it. I was able to see how this program affects this population; many carried their blood pressure cards with them and were very interactive in the conversations regarding their health. Others had brought friends, telling them about the services they would receive. I witnessed how important this night was for everyone there.”



It is meaningful that the collaboration has been well supported by university administration, including the generosity of University President Ginny Arthur. Once or twice a year she funds a meal and helps to serve. In December, President Arthur financially supported a holiday meal, and her leadership cabinet volunteered to serve the community meal at the Wellness Center. It is so important for the

community to see that Metropolitan State University truly supports its mission through the work it does within the community.

Metropolitan State put down roots on the east side of Saint Paul, and through the work of **Love Grows Here Wellness Center**, the university continues to have a transformative impact on our students and the community.

Lifelong Learning

Master of Liberal Studies

By Dr. Laura McCartan and Dr. Margaret Vaughn

A passion for learning at any age or stage of life and a fundamental curiosity about the world is the hallmark of a lifelong learner. Metropolitan State University holds lifelong learning as a core value. The Master of Liberal Studies (MLS) program within the College of Liberal Arts provides academic programs for lifelong learners that stretch their skills and expand their knowledge.

The MLS program creates an opportunity for students to sharpen critical thinking skills and develop interdisciplinary research skills that transport students along a lifelong learning trajectory. Recently, the directors of MLS, Associate Professors Margaret Vaughn and Laura McCartan, shared their thoughts on the value of lifelong learning:

**Dr. Laura McCartan, co-director,
Master of Liberal Studies Program (MA)**

**Dr. Margaret Vaughn, co-director,
Master of Liberal Studies Program (MA)**

McCartan: What will a student do with their 32 credits in the MLS program?

Vaughan: You will pursue research on a major question by integrating the humanities and the social sciences.

McCartan: What's so special about an interdisciplinary approach? We say that term a lot in MLS.

Vaughan: The interdisciplinary approach provides a complex, multi-layered approach to topics.

McCartan: Some students are surprised to learn that an unfamiliar discipline can illuminate aspects of their topic. If we were to name qualities that best described MLS students, what would it be?

Vaughan: Curiosity and persistence.

McCartan: Yes, curiosity. That's my favorite characteristic of students at any level. What skills do those characteristics help MLS students cultivate?

Vaughan: The MLS Program really polishes an assortment of skills that transfer to a broad array of settings.

McCartan: MLS students come from many different places, and they end up many places, too.



Graduate Program

Master of Liberal Studies

The MLS program at Metropolitan State University is an interdisciplinary graduate program in the liberal arts for individuals who have successfully completed a bachelor's degree.

Advanced liberal arts study expands an individual's potential for analysis, writing, critical thinking, multicultural understanding, and research.

Such skills and knowledge are portable and applicable in the workplace and increase an individual's capacity for further intellectual growth. The master of arts in liberal studies is relevant for work in any profession.

Students in the Master of Liberal Studies program include:

- Educators
- Directors
- Journalists
- Artists
- Writers
- Managers

Courses in the Master of Liberal Studies

The program focuses on particular topics, themes, or questions that are explored through the lenses of multiple liberal arts disciplines. The core MLS seminars, called the explorations, change topics every year.

Past examples include:

- Race: The Excavation of an Idea
- Art and Social Control
- Globalization
- Art and War
- Gender, Sport and Culture

Learn more at metrostate.edu



Alumna Spotlight

Andrea Jenkins: Serving the Community

By Matthew Spillum ('06, '17)

Council Vice President Andrea Jenkins' ('99) office, with its view east from City Hall, has a just-getting-started feel to it.

Leaned against two walls, dark stained wood picture rails await installation, while framed pieces, including a James Baldwin poster, sit in seeming anticipation of being properly placed. Jenkins' own journey, on the other hand, seems anything but just getting started, and the artist, activist, community organizer, former city council staffer, and the newly elected council member for Minneapolis' Eighth Ward described a path that will sound familiar to many Metropolitan State alums. "I spent three years at the University of Minnesota," Jenkins says, "I spent some time at the Minnesota School of Business, I moved back home to Chicago and went to Triton College for a couple of semesters, and Metro State was a place I could take all that experience and get credit for it."



In addition, Jenkins remembers some of the other elements that made Metropolitan State a good fit for her. “It was more affordable than other options, and it was more manageable—you could actually call the registrar! My academic advisor knew who I was; I was not just a number here.” That sense of belonging extended to her academic experience, and she noted several factors that prepared her for the many stages her life would traverse afterward.

“One was when I took a class with Wally Swann. It was a nonprofit administration class, but it was more like a political science class—he was an elected official at the time. I was really interested in politics, and so we talked a lot about politics. The second factor was Metro State’s strong commitment to including what we called diversity then, what I would call racial equity now, into every aspect of its curriculum. There was this powerful commitment to community—having instructors from the community, also having connections to the community—that really was a strong thread for Metro State as opposed to other institutions.”

Jenkins really flourished, she says, when she experienced the practical expression of Metropolitan State’s community engagement focus. “Metro State was intentional in its practice of community engagement, and to see that in a real way was inspiring. As a Metropolitan State student, I had an internship at a place called Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC) in North Minneapolis. An instructor named Titilayo Bediako, was just starting a program called the WE WIN Institute, which is a program that works with African American students in the Minneapolis Public Schools to help them understand culture and history, provides after school activities, helps them stay out of trouble. One of the students in the program was a woman named Jamecia Bennett, who was pregnant at the time. She gave birth to a girl named Paris Bennett, who you may have heard of, since she was second runner-up on American Idol. The two of them recently played Glinda and Dorothy, respectively, in *The Wiz* at the Children’s Theater Company. So she was 17, pregnant—many people would have written her off—it still happens today. But she



prevailed because people believed in her. I haven't thought of this story for a while, but the community embracing our young people, that means a lot. It showed me the power of community, giving back, being engaged."

That experience gave Jenkins the chance to build deep connections to the community, forging important networks and relationships that continue to bear fruit today. "I continued to work at PCYC after the internship was over, and really most of my professional life since has been in community-based nonprofits." After taking a position as an employment counselor with Hennepin County, Jenkins had a transformational opportunity to replicate that community centered, networked model. "I was part of a group that started a community-based office to build on community assets and bring them to our clients. Whether they needed government assistance, a parole officer, social worker, employment counselor, all of these professionals were in one space. Many times, families receiving assistance have a probation officer that's across town, a social worker that is downtown, a case manager that they have to go to Century Plaza to see, and none of these entities ever talk to each other. So we had this integrated office, where we could get together and talk about one case. We could eliminate the situations where people were not showing up for appointments they couldn't get to and consequently losing their benefits. We became a part of the community. 'Hey that's Andrea—she's my case worker, but also my neighbor.'"

It was during that time that Jenkins met Council Member Robert Lilligren. "He asked me to join his team because of this community experience I had," Jenkins says, "I worked for him for two and a half years, in the same ward that I had been working in, so I knew a lot of the people. It was a really valuable experience; I learned a lot and then went to work for Council Member Glidden. It has just been sort of a natural progression, and now, being the council member, I have all these deep relationships with people that go way back. One of the things about being an elected official is you have to earn the trust of the people, and I feel like I have been able to build that up over time through the work in the community."

Jenkins, the first openly transgender black woman elected to public office in the country, may just be getting started in her position, but it feels, as she puts it, "like a natural progression. I feel my lived experience as an African American, as a member of the broader LGBT community as a transgender person, and as a woman helps me understand a lot of the issues—you have to have all of that and you must understand and be deeply engaged in the policy to do the work." The work seems in good hands, even before the picture rails are installed.



Honoring Tradition. Shaping the Future.

The Metropolitan State University 2018 Scholarship Celebration
Thursday, April 5

Photography by Tom Roster



President Virginia "Ginny" Arthur with Theo Mochama



Lorraine Onchiri ('18)



Arthur Siegel ('80)



Irene Wright ('92), Samuel Ortiz Verdeja ('09), Sharon Brooks Green ('16), Sandra Best ('88)



Poh Lin Khoo ('17) with Chris Atemkeng



Yeng Lee ('17)

The scholarship celebration is hosted annually by the Metropolitan State University Foundation. In the spring of 2019, the foundation will welcome guests who have funded an endowed scholarship, made gifts of any size to a scholarship fund from July 1, 2017, to June 1, 2019, or made gifts of \$500 or more to the Metro Fund. Look for details in fall 2018.

Leading the Way

Twenty-five years of the Karl Neid Endowed Scholarship

By Joänne Tromiczak Neid

Joänne Tromiczak Neid reflects on her late husband's legacy to his beloved East Side and how it has impacted Metropolitan State students.

On a brilliant and brisk late summer evening in 1987, we sat around the dining room table of a friend. In the midst of our conversation, my husband Karl Neid, a lifelong Saint Paul eastsider who was born at St. John's Hospital on East Seventh and Maria, posed the question, "What could become of the site of the old St. John's?"

Among the suggestions in our brainstorming, Karl included higher education as a need of the east side. Along with his mentors Malcolm McDonald and Dick McCarthy, a gathering of east side leaders and residents held a "Lunch with Latimer" (then mayor of Saint Paul) on Sept. 15 to demonstrate to Reatha Clark King, then president of Metropolitan State University, that St. John's could be the perfect location for Metropolitan State University.

How thrilled we all were when it became a reality. In addition to Karl's concerns regarding education at all levels, he was a tireless volunteer in the community of his beloved east side. To further his desire to bring about growth and positive change, Karl ran for Saint Paul City Council in 1991 to represent Ward Six. Karl was elected and spoke the oath of office in January 1992. He died suddenly in his sleep on May 8 at the age of 43. In a eulogy at his funeral, Malcolm McDonald encouraged the initiation of the Karl Neid Endowed Scholarship for graduates of east side high schools or for its current residents.

A six-person interview committee was formed, comprised of members of Karl's family, friends, and colleagues. This year a past recipient of the scholarship was added to the committee. To this day, applicants for the scholarship are introduced to Karl's desire to help make Saint Paul "safer, stronger, better." We can award scholarships every two years because of the generosity of the donors. Thus far, there have been 19 recipients who are now making a significant difference where they live and work.

Last year on May 13, 2017, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the scholarship fund. That event gave donors and past recipients the opportunity to rejoice in Karl's legacy and renew their financial commitment.

Throughout the years, it has been important for me to make my contributions in a way that honors Karl and our relationship along with strengthening the fund on a regular basis. Some examples: Karl's birthday on Feb. 3, to give \$30 or \$300; on our wedding anniversary of July 26, my grant would be either \$260 or a check of 10 times the wedding anniversary year (so this year 10 x 38 equaling \$380). Since Dec. 25 held special significance for Santa Karl and Mrs. Claus, the scholarship fund receives a gift of \$25 or \$250.

It has been sheer delight for me to witness the diversity and development in the student body, the curriculum, and the physical campus at Metropolitan State University. Several times a year I find an occasion to walk the outdoor labyrinth west of the library as well as the skyway over East Seventh Street where there are tiles in Karl's honor, one of which reads, "Saint Paul City Council Member" and the other, "East Side Readers." Indeed, Karl Neid would be proud.



Student Success

By Kristine Hansen ('07)

Kurt Zilley was close to completing his master's degree in public administration—so close he is counting down not in classes or credits, but days. Finishing a master's degree midlife, with a full-time job, and a son in college is a challenge. Fortunately for Kurt, the Karl Neid Endowed Scholarship was a final piece of the puzzle to help him complete his last two classes needed to achieve his goal of completing his degree in May 2018.

Metropolitan State University has been part of Kurt's life for a long time. His first connection with the university was in 1983. After a stint at Saint Cloud State University, Kurt completed the volunteer management certificate offered by Metropolitan State while serving in the military. "It was a great program for me, and I was able to complete seven out of the ten competencies using my life experiences as an active volunteer." Zilley returned to the university to complete a bachelor's degree by combining credits earned from Saint Cloud State, classes taken while in the military, and experience from his military service with his work at Metropolitan State. "I was a lifelong learner from the start, and Metropolitan State was a good fit for me."

Kurt's commitment to serving the east metro as an active volunteer with the Capitol Improvement Budget Committee and the District 1 Community Council Land Use Committee is precisely in the spirit of what the Neid Endowed Scholarship was founded to support. The two men have a shared philosophy of the power of education and the importance of community service. On April 28, 2018, Kurt claimed his degree and now carries Karl's legacy into the community.



Trudee Kelly, Kurt Zilley ('90, '18), Yeng Lee ('17), Jöanne Tromiczak Neid

Fall 2017 Outstanding Students

By Robert Boos

Robert Bresin of Maplewood, Bachelor of Social Science, was chosen outstanding undergraduate student in the College of Liberal Arts. He will continue working as a veterinary technician while he seeks a new position in his field of study. He hopes to pursue a public policy master's degree in the future.

Beldonna Chakoutahi of Saint Louis Park, Bachelor of Arts degree, was chosen outstanding undergraduate student in the College of Individualized Studies. At Metropolitan State, Chakoutahi was a member of Lavender Bridge and vice president of Voices of Indian Council for Educational Success (VOICES). She is an active member of the Minnesota chapter of Habitat for Humanity. She is considering a master's in urban education.

Yingfah Thao of Minneapolis, Master of Science in Technical Communication, was chosen outstanding graduate student in the College of Liberal Arts. She also earned a certification in user experience design. As a professional, Thao works with nonprofit organizations and higher education, and is currently a communications and web manager.

Susan Vold of Bloomington, graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing, and was chosen outstanding undergraduate student in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. She was also featured as the President's Outstanding Student Speaker for the Fall 2017 commencement ceremony. She is a Movement Disorder nurse care coordinator and Deep Brain Stimulation program manager at University of Minnesota's Neurology Clinic.

Dionne Trice of Minneapolis, Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology, was chosen outstanding undergraduate student in the College of Community Studies and Public Affairs. She is a supervisor for the women's support group at the Oasis of Love Center in North Minneapolis. Trice now plans to study for a master's degree in marriage and family therapy.

Daniel Silva of Saint Paul, graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics and was chosen outstanding undergraduate student in the College of Sciences. He plans to continue developing his skills at his current job at prnLink, an insurance consulting company. In the near future, he wants to pursue a master's degree in applied statistics from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Kunchok Sangpo of Golden Valley graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree and was chosen outstanding undergraduate student in the College of Management Accounting program. Originally from Tibet, Sangpo graduated from Delhi University in India with a bachelor's degree in commerce. He is the first member of his family to go to college. He is an accountant at Visual Impact LLC, and plans to complete the Certified Public Accountant certification.

Lisa DeCory of Saint Paul, Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education, was chosen outstanding undergraduate student in the School of Urban Education. DeCory is a group residential housing case manager at Higher Ground in Saint Paul. She is also a volunteer at the American Indian Magnet School and a member of the Parent Teacher Organization there. She was awarded the Minnesota Indian Post-Secondary Student of the Year in 2017.

Nikitha Kommera of Saint Paul graduated with a Master of Computer Science degree, and was selected as an outstanding graduate student in the College of Sciences. Kommera is a first-generation college graduate in her family. Having completing her undergrad from a university in Telangana, India, Kommera came to Metropolitan State on a potential National Science Foundation research opportunity in cybersecurity. She recently relocated to Chicago and seeks opportunities to serve and protect the community from cybercrime.

LaToya Burrell Master of Business Administration

What's next? The world awaits. In her commencement address, LaToya Burrell credited Metropolitan State's mission and vision as it "speaks to rich diversity and building culturally competent learning environments."

A first-generation graduate, an accomplished attorney and college professor, Burrell wanted more and decided to further her education. She graduated in fall 2017 with a Master of Business Administration degree, and was selected as an outstanding graduate student in the university's College of Management. "My program took me two years, I attended on a part-time basis, and I could continue to work fulltime."

Burrell appreciated "the diversity of the program, overall." She enjoyed the opportunity to work with experienced and practicing professionals, as well as students recently completing their undergraduate degrees. "The diversity in nationalities and in people's backgrounds made the experience that much more valuable for me."

Practicing law, teaching, going to school, and maintaining a family can be a lot to juggle. Burrell's husband, also an attorney, supported the decision to continue her education. "The idea of being able to balance time, give 100 percent to the program, yet not

neglect my family or my career in the process" was paramount. Burrell says that earning her MBA isn't the end, but rather the start of something bigger.

"Workplaces are demanding globalization, and therefore the need for greater cultural competency," Burrell says, "We must be bold and lead well."

Burrell was selected as a fall semester outstanding student at Metropolitan State University. For her, it's important that her young son sees his mother in her cap and gown as she walks across the stage on graduation day. "I want him to equate that towards graduation and start to inspire him to see the value of education."

Burrell, now armed with her master's degree, looks forward to spending time with her family and her friends and looking to the future.

"The world is ours and it is our time to make our mark."



Game Changer

Deans' Notes

Dr. Craig Hansen, dean – College of Liberal Arts



The liberal arts are all about lifelong learning! Think about it: we benefit in so many ways from courses in the arts, communication, ethnic and gender studies, history, literature and language, philosophy and religion, all the social sciences, and, of course, writing. These fields offer broad and useful knowledge about the human condition, about where we've come from and where we're going. Just as important, the liberal arts offer us time-honored ways and means of enhancing our abilities to understand the world and ourselves.

The liberal arts sharpen our intellectual tools for inquiry and expression. Training and practice in analytical thinking yields more options and solutions for problem-solvers, and those skills apply not only in our careers, but in our families, our communities, and in our roles as citizens as well. The liberal arts empower our curiosity and truly educate us for a lifetime of learning.

I've talked with many alums, and they often speak of the value and satisfaction they continue to find in the liberal arts skills and knowledge that they cultivated in college, and that have proven even more valuable over time. I like to ask about any specifics they remember, and they frequently describe (even long after graduation) a particular liberal arts professor or course that was a "game changer," that brought an unforgettable enlargement of perspective, widening their horizons and enriching their lives.

Years ago I had entry-level technical writing skills and got a job at a large corporation. But I also had a solid background in liberal arts, which took me further. At first, I just wrote documents for my boss, but then learned he was challenged by giving oral presentations. So I reorganized his documents to support speaking from them. As a result, I got promoted and gave the oral presentations myself. Within two years I was reporting to a VP—who'd majored in history!

I've come full circle now, back to a university, and still working in the liberal arts on a daily basis. I've seen in my own life, and in the lives of many others, the contributions liberal arts learning can make to rewarding careers and meaningful lives. Now, that's *lifelong* learning.

Dr. Francis Schweigert, dean – College of Community Studies and Public Affairs



Greetings on behalf of the College of Community Studies and Public Affairs. As we come to the conclusion of our second year as a college, we have a lot to celebrate and appreciate.

First, and above all, we hail the hundreds of students and dozens of faculty and advisors who constitute the learning community that we are. All five of our departments are characterized by a deep interest in the human person and human community and a powerful commitment to the betterment of the human condition. This interest and commitment flows through everything we teach and learn, in all five of our departments:

- *In research*, from the studies of human behavior being conducted by students and faculty in the Psychology Department to the investigations of gun violence and police practices in the School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

- *In cultural competence*, from intensive on-site experiences in the Social Work Department's community learning centers to group facilitation in Human Services and Drug and Alcohol Counseling internships.
- *In social justice* in many forms, from the annual conference on Understanding and Responding to Mass Incarceration to the incisive advocacy skills honed in the Master of Advocacy and Political Leadership program.
- *In public service* as exercised in public administration and nonprofit management, in law enforcement and restorative practices, and in violence prevention and corrections.
- *In basic human care*, from the earliest stages of life in the early childhood studies program to the embracing and generous understanding and competence of aging studies and disabilities studies.

Second, we move forward with a sense of mission, captured in the following statement drafted through many discussions in this academic year:

"The mission of the College of Community Studies and Public Affairs (CCSPA) is to prepare students with broad liberal arts education, research abilities, and 21st century career readiness skills so they can have a meaningful impact on diverse and complex human social systems. We prepare our students to understand the science of behavior and to apply this knowledge in a variety of contexts as they seek to become resilient agents of service and change.

Our programs are responsive to our students' needs and incorporate multicultural and experiential learning in community settings. We challenge our students to confront corruption and injustice so that collectively we may overcome oppression in our communities. Through our degree programs, we aim to improve the well-being and safety of individuals, communities, and the public at large."

As we complete the many tasks to conclude this second year—in classrooms and laboratories, in papers and exams, in study groups and internships—we look forward with anticipation and joy to our third year as a college. We build on our strengths, but even more, we build with our desire for a better world for all, by all, and with all.

Arts at Metropolitan State

The poetry and prose on these pages is excerpted from the spring 2018 issue of *Haute Dish* magazine. Published twice annually, in fall and spring semesters, *Haute Dish* is dedicated to showcasing the literary and artistic talent of enrolled students, staff, faculty, and alumni of Metropolitan State.

The *Haute Dish* staff and editorial team are comprised of current Metropolitan State students from the Communication, Writing and the Arts department and any other Metropolitan departments who would like to participate. Visit their website at hautedish.metrostate.edu.

Submission deadlines are April 15–Fall issue, Nov. 15–Spring issue.

Final Commodity

Rebekah Pahr ('12)

Center of conspicuous consumption,
sacred celebrity, celebrate the self, sing the self, share,
over-share, digital-the new love letter.

Middle road thinning, vanishing point into finite distance,
gridlock philosophers meditating concrete,
weary blades of grass-last art installation.

Equal contribution to unequal shares,
doled out to either end of the pendulum,
schism of survival-eight hours to the idealized self.

Equal daughters and equal sons define themselves
externally,
exoskeletons fashioned, formed of brand-loyalty and baggage,
merchandise legacy-landfill of precious.

Annual replanting, shallow roots tentative,
seeds patented, germination rendered void,
twisted artifice, packaged, priced and sold- the
experience.
Clamoring masses, bowing to only one intangible entity,
uncontrolled,
opaque, unconquered, unyielding to device or technology.
Calamity, capricious and mocking,
Hurling warnings to earth that illuminate arrogances-
natural disaster.

Hiding Place

Ryan McClanahan ('17)

Mama called Jayne's name from the dining room. Mama didn't
sound mad. Yet. But if Jayne came out, Mama would discover
Jayne's special alone spot under the stairs, in the back behind the
boxes of Christmas lights and Martin's baby stuff.

The wet air smell of cardboard and sump pump filled the crawl
space. Just enough light spilled between two boards so that Jayne
could see the outline of her hands.

And the big gray box where Mama put daddy's stuff so she could
forget it. Momma called Jayne's name once more. The screen door
slammed behind Mama as she went outside. So Jayne knew she
was totally alone. She fought with the latch on the heavy box.
It was hard, made for big man's hands, and she had to push her
back against the wall. The latch flipped open like thunder in the
small space.

The ceiling in the crawl space was too low to open the box, but
Jayne could lift the thick plastic lid and reach inside. Touch the
cold metal that made her hands smell like fire. And the stiff cloth
that zip-zipped as she scratched her thumb nail over it, trying to
remember the pattern she had only seen in photos.

Her fingertips brushed along until they found the prickly Velcro.
She tore it open, closed it, opened closed, opened closed. The
movement pumped air through the uniform, forcing a thick smell
into the air. Like cookies and shade, like dust and iron, and far
sandy places she dreamt of and salty things she didn't know. The
smell Mama has hidden with all that had come home.

"I miss you, Daddy," Jayne whispered.

The Light Beneath the Door

Dennis Daniels

I hear you softly breathing.
I hear your gentle snore.
So, quietly, as not to wake you,
I slip out, and close the door.

I go out to the kitchen
Where I start my routine chores:
Making a healthy breakfast
For the one whom I adore.

But once those chores are ended,
And the paper I have read,
I look down the tiny hallway
For a sign you're out of bed.

I patiently await your awakening,
As I pace across the floor;
Always gazing down that hallway,
Hoping for a light beneath the door.

That light will tell me that you're up,
And ready to share the day.
That light will tell me you'll soon join me,
So together we'll face the fray.

That light will tell me that it's time,
For us to make our bed.
That light will tell me that, together,
We'll face what lies ahead.

But until I see that strip of light
The darkness I endure.
Who ever thought it could mean so much:
A strip of light beneath a door.

To Have Had

Larry Simpson

I know a man who's rather quiet,
Until you sit down by his side.
He is old, yet just as bold,
And he thinks fondly of his time.
He'll tell you things you never knew about,
Or some things you already do.
Things you couldn't dream about
And things that are not true.
He tells of drunken nights in bars,
Fighting strangers, earning scars.
And the tender touch of women,
And the one who broke his heart.
The dog that was his favorite
And was loyal to the end.
The day that he became the last alive,
Of all his friends.
The day they said his son
Would not return home from the war,
And the day he spread his ashes
All across the ocean floor.
This man has taught me many things,
With just the sadness in his smile.
With just the simple act of asking me
To sit down for a while.
Though life is full of loss,
Full of grief and many costs,
The beauty of it blossoms
When you realize what you've lost.

From You

By Christine Nelson ('13, '17)

The Metropolitan State University Alcohol and Drug Counseling Student Association (ADCSA) was selected to receive the 2017 NAADAC, the Association of Addiction Professionals, Emerging Leaders Award. Christine Nelson (former president of the ADCSA) and Vanessa Kissinger (former ADCSA secretary) flew out to Washington, D.C. to the NAADAC AIA Reception on Oct. 1, 2017, to personally receive this award. The reception was held at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Shuffling across the airport to reach the gate to Washington, D.C. for the third time in four years felt much like a dream. The first time I went to D.C., it was on a scholarship from Metropolitan State University for the “Advocacy and Action” conference hosted by NAADAC. I was at that time the president of the ADCSA and hoping to bring back something tangible to the university and student body. The conference was inspiring and made me feel like I could see the larger connection of addiction to the public policies that were being passed on the state and federal level. I was determined to make a difference in Minnesota by hosting an educational session on advocacy at the state level.

I accomplished that goal the following semester. The Minnesota local NAADAC had an ethics training, and two of my peers and I presented “Advocacy at the State Level.” It was exciting to see folks engage in dialogue about what action they could take to make a difference for their clients and those seeking recovery! The following year I attended a training at the Minnesota Recovery Connection, a local advocacy organization, to learn what is called “messaging.” This technique is used to learn how to effectively talk to the media and not allow them to take you to the darkest places of your story and your life.

I was amazed at how effective this could be for the students in the Alcohol and Drug Counseling program. I reached out to Deborah Mosby, a member of the faculty at Metro State, and we scheduled a meeting with Nell Hurley, the executive director of MRC at the time. This meeting is where the ‘Recovery Advocacy Seminar’ was born. Metropolitan State hosted that seminar each year for four years. We had the opportunity to have well-known guest speakers such as William Moyers, Betsy Hodges (then-mayor of Minneapolis),

David Wellstone (son of the late Paul Wellstone), and other amazing activists in the recovery community. There were many smaller programs and activities that the ADCSA organized to collaborate with the community and campus student organizations throughout the time I was president. I do believe those made monumental positive changes to the fabric of the community around Metro State.

I was deeply moved to hear that the ADCSA was nominated and had won the NAADAC 2017 Emerging Leaders of the Year award. It was wonderful to have national recognition for work we were doing in Minnesota to change the way people see addiction and to activate the recovery community to advocate for the rights and dignity of those seeking and in recovery. It was a final stamp on the passport of my educational journey through Metropolitan State. The experience at Metro State has been one of the best I have ever had in my educational journey. I have grown professionally and personally because of this.

I am eternally grateful to Metro State because it has helped me to hone my leadership and diplomacy skills. Later I went on to earn a master's degree in advocacy and political leadership (MAPL) at Metro State. I don't know if I would have chosen this path if I had not been exposed to so many great things while at this school. A big thanks to all the faculty: Deborah Mosby, Therissa Libby, Karin Jax, Kevin Spading and many more who were a vital part of this student organization's heartbeat. A shout out to thank all the members of the ADCSA organization, all the officers past and present including David Starks who took my seat as ADCSA president in 2014 and helped to make the organization flourish and grow even more after I graduated!



Vanessa Kissinger ('18), Christine Nelson ('13, '17) and Cynthia Moreno Tuohy (executive director of NAADAC)

Out and About

Arizona

By Kristine Hansen ('07)

President Ginny Arthur, while attending a conference in Phoenix, Ariz. October 2017, made time for breakfast with Metropolitan State University alumni. Over breakfast, the president was able to share her vision for the university. In attendance was a member of the first Metropolitan State University graduating class, Lois Young ('73). It was an enjoyable morning for all in attendance.



L to R: Anita Lewis, Maureen Buhl ('95), Al Becker ('75), President Ginny Arthur, Judith Wickelgren ('10), Michael Blackston ('86), Jeff Harris ('99), and Rita Dibble, Vice President, University Advancement. **Seated:** Lois Anita Young ('73) and guest of alumna Wickelgren.

California

By Deb Mosby

During the spring break from classes, my husband Ted Tessier and I visited southern California. As part of the visit, I had the opportunity to meet with several of my former alcohol and drug counseling students who work as addiction counselors at the Hazelden Betty Ford clinic in Rancho Mirage. Ted and I were so grateful these wonderful folks had taken the time to drive all that way to share some moments of reunion, lunch, and storytelling.



L to R: Deborah Mosby, Anthony Holmquist-Burks ('12), Doug Gerlach ('14), Ross Womble ('12), Nora Magnuson ('14), Ted Tessier

Breakfast at the Capitol 2018

Photography by Kathleen Ambre

Each year Sen. Sandy Pappas ('86)- Saint Paul, D-65 graciously hosts Metropolitan State University alumni for Breakfast at the Capitol. This year she was joined by her colleagues Sen. Roger Chamberlain ('01), Rep. Eric Lucero ('07), Sen. Scott Dibble, and Rep. Tim Mahoney. Alumni in attendance engaged in a lively discussion of higher education affordability, cybersecurity, and this year's Minnesota State legislative priorities. President Ginny Arthur shared her vision for the university including continuing to develop partnerships with the two-year institutions within the Minnesota State system, and plans for a cybersecurity range on the Saint Paul Campus.



Rep. Tim Mahoney, Sen. Sandy Pappas ('86), President Ginny Arthur



Speaking: Eric Lucero ('07)



Speaking: Sen. Roger Chamberlain ('01)

News and Notes

Note: All towns are in Minnesota unless otherwise noted.

By Grace Doyle

Fartun Ahmed ('12), Minnetonka, was elected to the Hopkins School Board, making her the first Somali woman in the country to be elected to a school board and the second in public office.

In an interview with Lakeshore Weekly News, Ahmed said, "it shows our district is ready to move forward," and, "it shows our district is open to connecting and engaging with someone despite the differences they may have."

Ahmed's 8-year-old sister wrote her a letter the day before the election, wishing her good luck. Ahmed said, "I want her to grow up in a community where she knows her leaders and people will listen to her and people will respect her."



Jacob Beasley ('12), Richfield, is the chief technology officer of a tech startup, DotComGuy, which provides customers with a direct connection technical assistance service professionals. Beasley said the company's app is a mobile and desktop friendly

platform for consumers and small businesses to find a technician in minutes. DotComGuy technicians install or repair computers, WiFi services, printers, smart home devices and much more.

Brandon Bragg ('12), Eagan, was hired as an officer at the Hastings Police Department.

Lauren Haefemeyer ('17), Minneapolis, was hired as an officer at the Woodbury Police Department. She previously worked as a paramedic with Woodbury Public Safety and as Emergency Medical Services staff for several Twin Cities hospitals.

Joseph Hawkinson ('16), Maplewood, was hired as an officer at the Rosemount Police Department. Hawkinson has worked as a civilian community service officer in Rosemount since 2015. Hawkinson has also worked as a military police officer in the Army National Guard.

Angela Edwards ('15), Minneapolis, received the Virginia McKnight Binger Unsung Hero award. Edwards is the founder of the nonprofit Education Explosion, where she works with students in north Minneapolis on test preparation, counseling and computer training.

Carl Eller ('94), Minneapolis, was appointed marketing and planning vice-president at Premier Biomedical. Eller is a retired NFL professional football Hall of Fame inductee who is also president of the NFL Retired Players Association, helping former players transition into retirement. A former defensive lineman, Eller was a six-time Pro Bowl participant who appeared in four Superbowl games with the Minnesota Vikings.

Eller has worked to raise awareness of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE). He is also a licensed drug and alcohol counselor, and founded a group of substance-abuse clinics called Triumph Life Centers.

Chad Frederick ('10), Louisville, Ky., published his book, *America's Addiction to Automobiles: Why Cities Need to Kick the Habit and How*. He also accepted a tenure track position at Grand Valley State University. Before this, Frederick was a senior research associate with the Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods at the University of Louisville and an instructor of public policy at Sullivan University.

Jamie Jansen ('07), Minneapolis, was appointed vice president of sales at Logic PD. Jansen joined Logic PD as director of information technology in 2016 and before that, held a senior strategic technology role at Cogentix Medical.

Andrea Jenkins ('99), Minneapolis, was elected to the Minneapolis City Council. Jenkins is the first transgender candidate to win a city council election in a major U.S. city and is the first transgender person of color to win election to public office anywhere in the United States.

Sharon Mohr ('94), Medina, has been hired as Central Lakes College's interim human resources director. Mohr has experience working in Minnesota State system human resources for over 30 years, at Metropolitan State University, the system office, Hennepin Technical College and as interim system director for HR initiatives.

Linda Moua ('17), Oakdale, was hired as an officer at the Eden Prairie Police Department. Moua has worked as a training instructor for Mall of America security and serves in the Army National Guard as an information technology specialist.



Michael O'Connor ('92), Lino Lakes, received the 2017 Kerzner Award for Excellence in Project Management through the Project Management Institute.

Marcus Owens ('04), Minneapolis, was named a "40 Under 40" by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal.

Bryan Schafer ('05), New Richmond, Wis., was appointed as school board member in New Richmond. Schafer has previously served on the School District of New Richmond's Board of Education.

Justin Teerlinck ('02), Lakewood, Wash., was promoted to the position of occupational therapy services manager at Western State Hospital.

Kent Therkelsen ('96), Minneapolis, retired from his position of executive director at Dakota Communications Center, which he led the startup of in 2007. In an interview with Rosemount Town Pages, Therkelsen said, "it's been more rewarding than people will know."

Fanice Thomas ('15), Raleigh, N.C., was selected to be a part of a national leadership program to build health equity. Thomas is a PhD student in applied social and community psychology at North Carolina State University where she researches ways to encourage healthy diet and exercise behaviors in immigrant populations. As part of the Health Policy Research Scholars program, she will work with other scholars towards building a culture of health.

Kathryn Thompson ('10), Saint Paul, was hired at Electromed, Inc. as vice president of reimbursement. Thompson has been in the healthcare industry for over 20 years. She previously worked as revenue cycle director at Fairview Health Services/University of Minnesota M Health and managed the billing and reimbursement function for Virtual Radiologic.

Ismael Tounkara ('09), Virginia Beach, Va. was awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal. Tounkara is a Navy Acquisition Contracting Officer intern and contracting officer for the Common Electronics Integrated Weapon Systems Team with the Naval Supply Systems Command Weapon Systems Support.

Yorn Yan ('96, '00), Cottage Grove, won the Legacy Award from the Minnesota Humanities Center. Yan has been executive director of the United Cambodian Association of Minnesota for 14 years. Yan is president of National Cambodian American Organization and the author of *New Americans, New Promise: A Guide to the Refugee Journey in America*. Previous to this, he worked as a management consultant for the Wilder Foundation.

In Memoriam

By Robert Boos

Emeriti

Metropolitan State University recognizes the service and dedication of faculty and staff who, upon are retiring, were recommended for emeritus or emerita status by their colleagues.

Dr. Daniel Abebe
Dr. Anne Aronson
Dr. Rose Wan-Mui Chu
Dr. Valarie Geaither
Dr. Leah Harvey
Dr. Larry Gottschalk
Dr. Alison McGhee
Dr. Nancy Miller
Mr. Phillip Bell
Dr. Paul Hesterman
Ms. Barbara Schulman
Ms. Joyce Paxton

Susan Shumer died on Nov. 19, 2017.

Her former colleagues, friends and family members gathered for a memorial to her life and work on Jan. 18, 2018 on the Saint Paul Campus of Metropolitan State University.

Shumer was the founding director of the Center for Community-Based Learning (CCBL), which became the Institute for Community Engagement and Scholarship prior to her January 2013 retirement as director emerita.

Shumer came to Metropolitan State as its academic internship coordinator in 1992. In 1996, she co-founded CCBL and became its director. Her work was always guided by the convictions that Metropolitan State was built upon having strong relationships with the community, and that we must collaborate internally if we want to have effective collaborations externally. She made sure the university's founding commitment to honoring community-situated knowledge remained central to our work.

Shumer's influence led to many program innovations and national recognitions for Metropolitan State. Thanks to her vision and industry, community engagement as an approach to teaching, learning, and scholarship became institutionalized—in the finest sense of that word—at Metropolitan State, anchoring an institutional ethos and reputation as an “engaged campus” into which we continue to live and grow.

Shumer was asked, in an interview one year before her retirement, about her favorite memory after 20 years at Metropolitan State. She identified the day in 2007 that she spent as host, guide, and general factotum for Archbishop Desmond Tutu, of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, when he came to join youthrive's “PeaceJam” youth conference at sites across the Twin Cities, including Metropolitan State.

Shumer is survived by her husband Robert Shumer, a member of the university's community faculty, and their three adult children.

In Memorium:

John Doran ('16), Richfield
Ahmed Eyow ('16), Bloomington
Heino Erichsen ('78), Shenandoah, Texas
Richard Gaskins ('80), Mankato
John Healy ('88), Saint Paul
Melvin Kilbo ('76), Lyman, S.C.
Maria Lopez, Saint Paul
David Rausch ('07), St. Louis Park
Ralph Seršen ('75), Saint Paul
Dwaine Van Houten ('92), Saint Paul

Director's Notes



The best part of my job as the alumni relations director at Metropolitan State University is when I have the opportunity to sit across the table from a Metropolitan State graduate and listen to their story over a cup of coffee. I come away from these meetings with a profound respect for the people, some of whom have traveled long and winding paths, who now proudly

claim the title Metropolitan State Alumni. It is a badge of honor, as well as academic achievement.

Over the course of many cups of coffee and many pleasant afternoons, I have noticed some distinct commonalities among my fellow alumni. Chief among these characteristics is the willingness to push the boundaries of their experience and explore new possibilities.

In this issue, we are featuring trailblazing Minneapolis City Councilmember Andrea Jenkins, who throughout her life and career has asked: “what’s possible?” We also include a profile of Kurt Zilley, an alum, and member of the most recent Masters of Public and Nonprofit Administration cohort. Returning to Metropolitan State to complete an advanced degree, Zilley is also an example of a lifelong learner.

Metropolitan State was founded on the belief that people should have the opportunity to make possibilities into realities through continuing their education and completing a degree. Our alumni are living proof of this reality.

Kristine Hansen ('07)

Alumni Relations Director



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Follow us on Twitter:
MetroStateAlumniMN @MetroAlum_MN

Art in this issue

In an effort to encourage the growth and development of student and alumni studio artists and to elevate the profile of the arts on campus, Metropolitan State's Art Exhibition Committee orchestrated four art purchases on the basis of artistic merit.

The artworks featured in this issue of *buzz* are results of the 2018 Art Purchase Award. The works selected for acquisition include: two acrylic paintings by alumnus Adam Bucher ('13) of Saint Paul, entitled *Communication* and *Face*, and a gouache painting by alumna Susan Solomon ('08) of Saint Paul, entitled *For Now She Closed Her Eyes*.

The 2018 Art Purchase Award was supported by Academic Affairs, the Alumni Association, the Student Senate, the Library Endowment and the Office of the President.

The 16th annual Art Purchase Award will occur in the spring of 2019. Inquiries can be directed to resident faculty member Amy Sands at amy.sands@metrostate.edu.



Face
Adam Bucher
acrylic



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 4591



MINNESOTA STATE

Metropolitan State University,
A member of Minnesota State



Healing Echinacea
Lynn Vincent
colored pencil